

Senate Bill 167
January 24, 2013
Presented by Hank Worsch
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Hank Worsch, License Bureau Chief, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in opposition to Senate Bill 167.

SB 167 would allow free combination sports license for individuals 70 years of age or older. Currently individuals 62 years of age or older may purchase a resident senior combination license for \$55 or opt to purchase a conservation license (with implied privileges of a fishing and a upland game bird license) for \$8, a general deer license for \$10, and a general elk license for \$12. An individual 62 years of age or older can choose to pay \$30 or \$55 for the same licensure. This bill would give someone who already has two options for a discounted license a free license.

The total number of senior "Resident Sportsman Licenses" issued for 2012 were 1,298. The Department issued 17,274 discounted general deer licenses to individuals 62 or older and 15,052 discounted general elk licenses to individuals 62 or older.

This is one of many bills that affect hunting and fishing license costs, structure, and fees, each of which is being addressed independently. It would be timely over the next interim to look at incremental changes that have been made over time to all FWP licenses, fees, and license structure to determine the most effective and equitable system for hunters and anglers.

A Fiscal Note has been prepared.

I will also hand out a spreadsheet with my testimony representing the current loss of revenue for discounted or free licenses issued.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have questions, I will be available. Thank you.

Lost Revenue to FWP by discounted or free licenses 2012

License Type	Other	Senior	Youth 12-14	Youth 15-17	Disabled	Total	Regular Price	Discounted	Difference	Loss in Rev to FWP
1 Conservation and implied fishing*		41,027	10,251			58,912	\$26.00	\$8.00	\$18.00	\$1,060,416.00
2 Conservation and fishing				5,955		5,955	\$26.00	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$59,550.00
3 Sportsman W/O bear (youth)				6,219		6,219	\$70.00	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$279,855.00
4 Free Youth Sportsman				4,976		4,976	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$348,320.00
5 Deer A			4,818		4,931	9,749	\$16.00	\$6.50	\$9.50	\$92,615.50
6 Deer A		17,274			17,274	17,274	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$103,644.00
7 Elk			3,604		4,186	7,790	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$93,480.00
8 Elk		15,052				15,052	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$180,624.00
9 Upland Bird				1,304		1,304	\$7.50	\$3.00	\$4.50	\$5,868.00
10 Implied Upland Bird*		41,027	10,251		7,634	58,912	\$7.50	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$441,840.00
11 Implied Waterfowl*		41,027	10,281	4,654	7,634	63,596	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$317,980.00
12 Sportsman W/O bear (senior)		1,298				1,298	\$70.00	\$55.00	\$15.00	\$19,470.00
13 Military Recognition Sportsman **		1,298				1,298	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$90,860.00
14 Landowner Trapper		126				126	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$19.00	\$2,394.00
15 NR College Student License		393				393	\$939.00	\$70.00	\$869.00	\$341,517.00
16 NR youth upland/migratory		126				126	\$160.00	\$35.00	\$125.00	\$15,750.00
17 NR Native-Deer A		1,171				1,171	\$250.00	\$64.00	\$186.00	\$217,806.00
18 NR Native-Elk		1,001				1,001	\$789.00	\$80.00	\$709.00	\$709,709.00
19 NR Native-Upland Bird		416				416	\$110.00	\$30.00	\$80.00	\$33,280.00
20 Military Combat Disabled Deer A		8				8	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$1,000.00
21 Military Combat Disabled Deer B		2				2	\$75.00	\$37.50	\$37.50	\$75.00
22 Military Combat Disabled Antelope		8				8	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$800.00
23 Military Combat Disabled Deer B Res		1				1	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
24 Military Combat Disabled Antelope Res		2				2	\$14.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$14.00
25 NR Youth Sponsored BG		388				388	\$939.00	\$474.50	\$464.50	\$180,226.00
26 Cooperators Big Game Combo		127				127	\$939.00	\$0.00	\$939.00	\$119,253.00
27 Exceptional Youth BG Combo		2				2	\$939.00	\$0.00	\$939.00	\$1,878.00
28 Cooperator Sportsman		665				665	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$46,550.00
29 Flathead Conservation		6,998				6,998	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$8.00	\$55,984.00
30 Flathead Joint Bird		733				733	\$7.50	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$5,497.50
31 Flathead Joint Fishing		3,491				3,491	\$18.00	\$0.00	\$18.00	\$62,838.00

These numbers are at full replacement cost and assume full participation of implied licensure.

The Military recognition license sales are reimbursed from the General Fund.

*Implied privileges are licenses issued with the sale of a Conservation License. (Fishing, Upland Game and Migratory Bird licenses)

** The money for this license is reimbursed from the State general fund

Total \$4,889,099.00